Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, starting after [004], with the following rewritten paragraph:

Computing devices and computer-related technology have become important tools in the educational field for teaching and ~~learning in~~ learning, in the medical field for providing quick and easy access to patient records, as well as in other fields. Computing devices are also commonly found in public libraries, airline clubrooms, internet cafes, etc. In the educational field, educators often rely on multi-media presentations and educational software as another avenue to promote learning and to assess student knowledge. A myriad of computer software applications are designed to work as teaching tools for students of any age. Unfortunately, computing devices, and the related software and peripherals, are expensive. Hence, most schools cannot afford to purchase computing devices for all the students. The students thus share computing devices. While this works well, it does not readily allow for the students to have "personalized systems" on the computing devices. Some systems, such as Windows® operating systems allow for different users to log onto the computing device, and for each user to have their own personalized settings. However, these personalized settings are resident on only one computing device, and cannot be transferred to different computing devices. Thus, a student, who may change classes several times a

day, and thus be required to use several different computing devices in one day,

would not be able to move the personalized settings from one computing device to

the next.

Please replace the paragraph [0023] beginning at page 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023]   In a broad overview, the system of the present invention includes a data

storage device 100 that is connectable to a computing device C. The data storage

device is preferably a portable device which may have data written to it, to which

the data can be altered or deleted, and to which additional data can be added.

Preferably, the data storage device is one that has no moving components, such

as PCMCIA, CompactFlash, smart media, USB Flash drives, smart cards, PC

cards, and the like. However, the data storage device can also include rotatable

disks, such as floppies, CD's, DVD's, JAZZ disks, removable hard drives, etc.

Such rotatable discs can be contained within a housing, as would be the case for a

removable hard drive, or can be discs which are then inserted in a disk drive of the

computing device. Further, the storage device can comprise a remote computing

device to which the computing device is connected over a network.   The

computing device C can be a personal computer, tablet computer, handheld

computer, PDA or other type of computing device. As will be discussed below,

software functions to ensure the authenticity of the data storage device, retrieve

personalization parameters from the removable data storage device that may

impact the interface or other temporary settings on the computing device, adjust

the settings for the computing device based on the personalization parameters

stored on the data storage device, load data and files from the data storage device

to the computing device, and write data and files from the computing device to the

data storage device. Some or all of the contents of the data storage device may

also be backed up on a remote computing device to which the host computing

device is connected over a network. As will also be discussed below, when the

device 100 is connected to the computing device C, the software reads the

information from the portable storage device 100, and uses that information to

show a personalized interface on the computing device C. Thus, the user can

connect the storage device 100 into any computing device running the software

and, in effect, have their own personalized computing system while they are using

the particular computing device. Hence, with the storage device 100, a user can

turn any computing device into his/her "own" computing device. Because the

storage device is intended to allow an individual to transport computing device

setting preferences and user session information between different computing

devices, the storage device 100 ~~is a preferably~~ is preferably a device that is

personal to the particular user, and is intended to store the information of only one

Page 4 of 37

user. That is, a single storage device is not intended to be used by more than one

user.

Please replace the paragraph [0026] beginning at page 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0026] A schematic illustration of the removable data storage device 100 is

shown in FIG. 1. The removable data storage device 100 will store user

information and password 110, computing device settings 120, user usage history

130, an emergency cache 135, user files 140, application data 150, and a unique

system data marker 160. The user information 110 identifies the user. The device

settings 120 include items such as computing device display background settings,

computing device display color preferences, icons and location of those icons on a

computing device display, audio settings within the computing device, including

volume settings, computing device display font settings, <u>and</u> computing device

printing preferences. The user usage history 130 contains information as to which

files were last accessed and which files the user has "checked out". The

emergency cache 135 contains user file information and data which is temporarily

saved during a user's session. User files 140 include the user's files such as

electronic books, files (such as word processing documents, spreadsheets,

presentations, etc.), media (such as audio/visual files), etc. Application data 150

includes a list of applications expected and previously used by the user, templates

for the various applications, spell checking dictionaries, etc. The unique system

data marker 160 is an identifier, akin to an electronic serial number, that is unique

to each removable storage device and which can be used to identify individual

storage devices and verify that the storage devices are authentic.

Please replace the paragraph [0028] beginning at page 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0028] FIGS. 3 and 4 show a computing device before and after a storage

device has been connected to the computing device and the software has been

run. Prior to connecting the storage device 100 to the computing device C, the

computing device C might appear as shown in FIG. 3. Upon connecting the

storage device to the computing device, the program of the present invention will

be run, as described below, to provide a personalized interface on the computing

device to load certain files onto the computing device based on the data stored in

the storage device, to start any applications that were open at the end of the user's

previous session, and to open any files that were open at the end of the user's

previous session, preferably to the point in the files where the user was working.

An example of what a computing device display could look like after the software

has run is shown in FIG. 4. The user then can use the computing device during a

user session, and the computing device will, in effect, appear and act like the

user's own computing device. After a user session is ended, the user logs out, as

discussed below, to terminate the session. Once logged out, the user can disable the connection between the computing device and the storage device. If the storage device is a portable storage device (such as a disk, memory device, etc), disabling the connection comprises removing the storage device from the computing device. On the other hand, if the storage device comprises a remote computing device, disabling the connection includes terminating the communications link between the host computing device and the remote computing device (e.g., logging the host computing device off of the network to which the remote computing device is connected). The computing device will then return to its previous state (i.e., its state prior to the initiation of the use session) as shown in FIG. 3. The user can then connect a different computing device to the storage device. On this second computing device, the software will again run to give the user the same interface as appeared on the first computing device. Preferably, the storage device 100 can be used on computing devices running different operating systems as well as different versions of one operating system (e.g. the various versions of Windows). Additionally, the software can be written in any desired programming ~~languages~~ language.

Please replace the paragraph [0038] beginning at page 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0038] At this point, the software can prompt the user, as in block 332 (FIG. 2C), if the user wants to "check out" any files on the host computing device C or a network to which the computing device may be attached. If the user does not desire to "check out" any files, then the software executes an event loop 350 <u>(FIG. 2D)</u> ~~(FIG. 2E)~~, as described below. If the user does wish to "check out" files, the user, at block 334 (FIG. 2C), will be presented with a file selection box. The file selection box may take any desired form, but preferably allows for the user to select multiple files at a single time. The files desired to be checked out are to be copied to the storage device 100, so, the software, at block 336, checks to determine that there is sufficient space on the storage device. If there is not enough space on the storage device 100, the user will be informed that there is insufficient space to copy all the selected files to the storage device 100, and, at 338 will be given the option to reselect files. If the user opts to reselect files, the software will return to the file selection menu at block 334. If the user opts not to reselect files, the software will jump to the event loop 350 <u>(FIG. 2D)</u> ~~(FIG. 2E)~~ and the user will not have checked out any files. Once the user successfully selects which files he/she wishes to check out, the software, at 340 copies the selected files to the storage device and to the host computing device and makes a list of the

checked out files for later use. The list of checked out files is saved on the storage device. Lastly, the software block 342, tags the selected files on the host computing device or the network as being "protected". This will prevent another user on the network from opening and editing the file while the current user has the file "checked out". Should a different user attempt to open a file that is checked-out, such a user would get a message that the file is locked, and that the file can be opened as a "read-only" file.